



QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED N. C. AND U. S. COTTON PRODUCTION IN 1948?
2. HOW MANY STATES EXCEED N. C. IN AVERAGE YIELD OF COTTON PER ACRE?
3. HOW DOES 1948 TOBACCO PRODUCTION COMPARE WITH 1947?
4. WHICH TYPE OF TOBACCO IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE THE HIGHEST YIELD PER ACRE IN 1948?
5. IS THE INDICATED 1948 PRODUCTION OF CORN THE HIGHEST OF RECORD?
6. HOW DOES THE INDICATED PRODUCTION OF SOYBEANS COMPARE WITH 1947?
7. IS PEANUT PRODUCTION CURRENTLY ESTIMATED ABOVE LAST YEAR?
8. HOW DOES 1948 PRODUCTION OF SWEETPOTATOES COMPARE WITH 1947?
9. HOW DO PRESENT FEED SUPPLIES COMPARE WITH OTHER YEARS?

NO. 25

RALEIGH, N. C.

NOVEMBER 15, 1948

NOVEMBER 15, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

COTTON PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

A cotton crop of 690,000 bales is forecast for North Carolina based on reports from ginneries and growers as of November 1. This is the same as the October 1 forecast. The November 1 forecast is 50 percent larger than the 1947 crop and about one-fifth larger than the ten-year average production. The 1948 indicated average lint yield per acre is 122 pounds above 1947 and 102 pounds above the ten-year average.

The 1948 season was very favorable for the growth and maturity of cotton. The hot and dry weather from mid-June to mid-July was almost ideal for cotton. Boll weevil infestation was held to a minimum in most sections of the state. Under almost ideal weather conditions, the crop reached maturity considerably earlier than usual. Cotton picking progressed rapidly until the last week of September, at which time it was delayed by more than a week of frequent rains. Picking and ginning have made very good progress as shown by the fact that the Bureau of the Census reports that about two-thirds of the 1948 crop had been ginned as of November 1.

Cotton production in the U. S. is now estimated at 15,166,000 bales which is 28 percent greater than 1947 and 13 percent greater than the ten-year average production.

COTTON PRODUCTION NOVEMBER 1, 1948

STATES	YIELD/ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1947	1948	1947	1948
	POUNDS		THOUS. BALES	
N. CAROLINA.	335	457	452	690
MISSOURI....	345	470	311	515
VIRGINIA....	369	440	18	22
S. CAROLINA.	297	381	651	925
GEORGIA....	246	286	651	780
FLORIDA....	213	258	11	14
TENNESSEE...	356	423	520	690
ALABAMA....	298	367	931	1,250
MISSISSIPPI.	320	451	1,569	2,410
ARKANSAS....	298	429	1,276	2,050
LOUISIANA...	292	386	505	750
OKLAHOMA...	141	153	330	350
TEXAS....	198	171	3,437	3,200
NEW MEXICO..	570	550	179	245
ARIZONA....	497	543	234	310
CALIFORNIA..	693	567	772	950
ALL OTHER...	350	429	10	15
U. S.	257.3	312.1	11,857	15,166

FALL SEASON GOOD

Weather conditions during October were generally favorable for the usual farming activities in North Carolina, especially for harvesting cotton, corn, peanuts, and hays. Moderate to heavy rains fell over coastal and piedmont counties during the first part of the month. Mountain counties received only light rain during the entire month. The total rainfall received during October ranged from about one inch in mountain counties to five inches or more in coastal counties. Temperatures during the month average below normal in all sections.

With the exception of western counties fair to good progress was made by farmers during October in seeding winter grains. The lack of soil moisture in western counties caused considerable delay in preparing land for fall seeded grains. Generally, early seeded grains are up to good stands and so far have attained good growth.

Growers have devoted more than the usual care and time to their cotton crop this year. Cotton picking is well advanced in most areas as shown by the fact that about two-thirds of the crop had been harvested at the end of October. With the exception of the burley crop, tobacco marketing is about complete. Approximately 45 percent of the corn crop had been harvested as of November 1.

RECORD TOBACCO YIELDS

Reports from growers together with warehouse sales data indicated a total flue-cured crop for North Carolina of 723 million pounds as of November 1. This is an increase of 31 million pounds over the October 1 estimate. This year's crop, while 19 percent less than the 892 million pounds produced in the State's bright-leaf belts in 1947, is 12 percent larger than the 10-year (1937-46) average production of 644 million pounds.

Dry weather resulted in a pessimistic outlook for yields early in the season, however, the crop progressed splendidly and a record high yield of 1212 pounds per acre is in prospect. This compares with the 1947 yield of 1139 pounds and the 10-year average of 1002 pounds. Record high yields are in prospect in each flue-cured belt.

The Eastern Belt crop was about 98 percent sold as of November 1, and estimates of production based upon sales and growers' reported yields amounted to 360 million pounds, almost 15 million pounds larger than the crop indicated as of October 1. This production, supported by continued heavy sales would result in a yield of 1225 pounds per acre for the Eastern Belt. This compares with last year's yield of 1205 pounds and the 10 year average of 1039 pounds.

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DUE FOR THE AXE SOON



TOBACCO (Continued)

The growing season in the Middle and Old Belts continued favorable up to harvest and November 1 indications point to a crop of approximately 275 million pounds for these belts. This is slightly more than 16 million pounds larger than the crop indicated on October 1 and compares with the 1947 crop of 320 million pounds and the 10-year average of 236 million pounds.

Final sales data indicated no change in the estimate for the Border Belt crop of 88.2 million pounds.

A Burley crop of 16.5 million pounds was indicated as of November 1. Weather conditions have been very favorable in burley growing counties and a record broadleaf yield of 1,650 pounds is in prospect. This compares with the 1947 yield of 1,560 pounds and the 10-year average of 1,181 pounds.

OUTLOOK FOR RECORD CORN CROP

A record corn crop of over 76 million bushels is forecast for North Carolina as of November 1. The "bumper" crop is attributed to the expected record yield of 33 bushels per acre which is 2.5 bushels higher than last year. The acreage to be harvested is 8 percent larger than last year but one percent below average.

Generally, the corn crop is good over the entire state as borne out by indicated record yields for 1948. The crop is particularly good in mountain counties and most of the lower coastal counties. There are localized sections in upper coastal counties and in the piedmont where the crop never fully recovered from extended dry weather in June and July.

A large proportion of growers, particularly in coastal and piedmont counties have completed harvesting of their corn. Generally, the crop has been harvested under excellent weather conditions.

A National crop of about 3.6 billion bushels was forecast as of November 1. This would be 52 percent larger than the crop harvested last year.

PEANUT CROP GOOD

November 1948 prospects pointed to the second largest peanut crop of record in North Carolina. This year's production, estimated at almost 361 million pounds, is 16 percent larger than the 1947 crop of 310 million pounds and 18 percent larger than the 10 year average of 306 million pounds.

Around 20 percent of the state's

acreage had been dug by the time the early October rains came. Many people believed the crop was being dug too early and looked upon the rains as "a blessing in disguise". Peanuts dug after the rains are showing much better yields than the early dug crop. Picking of the later dug crop should be in full swing by mid-November if favorable weather prevails. Bag weights are running considerably lower than the exceptionally high ones for last season, but an increase in the number of bags per acre will more than offset the decline in bag weight and increased yields over 1947 are in prospect.

SOYBEAN PROSPECTS DECLINE

Based on November 1 reports, the outlook for soybean production in North Carolina is not up to the prospects of a month earlier. Total production is now forecast at 3,601,000 bushels -- 8 percent less than the 3,915,000 bushels produced last year but 54 percent greater than the 10-year average. Limited harvesting operations were getting underway in the main producing areas as of November 1. Some localized areas experienced heavy rains during the first two weeks of October but little damage to the crop resulted. Generally, open weather prevailed during the latter half of October and aided materially in the maturing and drying of beans and pods, and if such weather continues, harvesting should be well underway by November 15.

A yield of 13 bushels per acre is in prospect. This would be 2 bushels lower than the yield realized in 1947. Outcome of the crop in central coastal counties is not as good as anticipated earlier.

SWEETPOTATO CROP UNCHANGED

Digging of sweetpotatoes in North Carolina progressed rapidly during October in spite of generally heavy rains during the first 10 days of the month. Production prospects were unchanged, and based on November 1 reports a crop of 6,780,000 bushels is still expected. This would mean a total crop for the State 8 percent smaller than that produced in 1947 and 13 percent less than the 10-year average.

As of November 1, a yield of 113 bushels per acre was estimated. This would be the third highest yield since 1942, and compares with 115 bushels in 1947 and an average of 104 bushels per acre.

The sweetpotato estimate of

52,409,000 bushels for the United States is about the same as the October 1 estimate of the crop. Production in 1947 was 57,178,000 bushels and the 1937-46 average was 64,866,000 bushels.

FALL CABBAGE CROP GOOD

Weather conditions in North Carolina during late summer and autumn were unusually good for growth and development of late fall cabbage. Good rains and cool temperatures at the time of "heading" of plants has resulted in record production prospects. Based on November 1 reports a record yield of 6.5 tons per acre is forecast, compared with 3.5 tons last year and an average of 5.0 tons per acre. Total production for this year's crop is estimated at 16,200 tons, the highest of record. Production for the years 1945 and 1946 was almost as large.

PECAN PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

The 1948 production of pecans in North Carolina was estimated to be about 2.8 million pounds as of November 1. This is no change from the estimate made last month. If the November 1 prospects materialize, the current crop will exceed 1947 by 35 percent and the 10-year average by 7 percent. The condition of trees and damages from insects and pests are reported as varying considerably over the state and even in the same grove. The crop was also damaged by the late spring freeze and the dry weather in June and July. Reports on the quality of the current crop range from "poor" to "excellent".

Farmers will go into 1949 with fewer cows than last year, but more favorable price relationships will tend to keep output per cow at a higher rate than in 1948.

Prices of new crop wheat have risen to loan levels, and are expected to stay up through most of 1948-49 marketing season.

Growers will receive about the same prices for most fruits in November and December as a year earlier.

More chickens and turkeys are likely to be raised in 1949 because of improved product-feed price ratios.

Domestic mill consumption of cotton for first 2 months of current marketing year was 1,468,000 bales -- 2 percent above same 2 months of last season.

FEED PRODUCTION HIGH

Total production of grains on North Carolina farms during 1948 is estimated to total 91.8 million bushels, 6 percent above total production in 1947 and 39 percent above the 10-year average. Production of all hays this year is expected to total 1,226,000 tons, 21,000 tons more than was produced in 1947 and 50,000 tons more than average.

Production of small grains this season was reduced sharply from 1947, due to a very late and unfavorable planting season. Thus, small grains make up only 17 percent of all supplies of grains produced on North Carolina farms this year compared with 25 percent in 1947 and 23 percent for the 10-year period 1937-46.

EGG PRODUCTION SEASONALLY GOOD

During October, layers on North Carolina farms produced 54 million eggs. The month's production was 4 million below September and 2 million above October of last year. October marks the first month of this year that total production has been higher than during the corresponding month of 1947.

Since March of this year the monthly rate of lay per hen has been somewhat higher than during the same period of last year. The October rate of lay was 7.75 eggs, comparing with 7.25 eggs during the same month a year ago. However, since April of this year both the rate of lay and total production have shown monthly declines. These declines follow the normal seasonal trend.

There were 7,004,000 layers on farms during October. This number compares with 6,352,000 during the previous month and 7,124,000 during October 1947. From September to October, new layers came into flocks at a comparatively rapid rate.

MILK PRODUCTION LOWER

In accordance with the usual seasonal downward trend, October milk production in North Carolina showed a decline from the previous month's level. Total production during October was estimated at 131 million pounds or 7 million pounds less than during September. During October of this year, an estimated 355 thousand milk cows were on farms, producing an average of 370 pounds per cow. Although there were 3 thousand more milk cows on farms during October 1947 than during the same month of this year, total production for October of last year amounted to only 129 million pounds, an average production of 360 pounds per cow.

N. C. FARM STOCKS OF CORN LARGE -- WHEAT SMALL

On October 1 this year there were 5,075,000 bushels of old crop corn on farms in North Carolina -- 12 percent above carryover last year and the fourth largest carryover of record. July to October disappearance of corn from farms this year totaled 11.4 million bushels, considerably above disappearance during this period in any other year on record. Stocks in off farm positions totaled 122,000 bushels. Giving total stocks of old crop corn in all positions on October 1, 1948 of nearly 5.2 million bushels.

October 1 stocks of wheat on North Carolina farms were the smallest since 1932. Stocks of wheat in all positions on this date totaled 3,540,000 bushels, 30 percent below total stocks a year ago. October 1 farm stocks of 2,557,000 bushels were 34 percent below stocks on farms last year on this date.

Stocks of oats on North Carolina farms October 1 were the smallest since 1943, but above average. A comparison of North Carolina grain stocks as of October 1, 1947 and 1948 is given in the table below.

NORTH CAROLINA GRAIN STOCKS OCTOBER 1, 1947 AND 1948

CROP	ON FARMS		ALL OFF FARM POSITIONS		TOTAL STOCKS	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
CORN (OLD CROP).....	4,549	5,075	157	122	4,706	5,197
WHEAT.....	3,887	2,557	1,179	983	5,066	3,540
OATS.....	5,695	4,290	261	175	5,956	4,465
BARLEY.....	508	355	42	22	650	377
RYE.....	232	177	22	4	254	181

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1949 OUTLOOK

Demand for most farm products is expected to stay strong in 1949. If economic trends and government programs develop as now indicated, farmers' prices and cash receipts may average almost as high in 1949.

Prospects for the second half of next year are more uncertain. It is possible that the foreign situation could change in such a way that government spending for foreign aid and defense would be reduced substantially. This would weaken demand for farm products. Even under such a situation, farmers' cash receipts are not likely to drop more than 10 percent below the 30 billion dollars estimated for 1948.

Farm costs are the highest in history this year. Feed costs will be down in 1949 but many other production costs will continue upward. Total costs are likely to be near 1948 levels.

Gross farm income is leveling off this year. With costs continuing upward, net farm incomes for 1948 are expected to be down about 8 percent from 1947. With another slight drop in gross income expected in 1949 and costs remaining high, net income probably will be off again next year.

With net incomes high, the last few years have been prosperous ones for many farm families. They have spent more for household furnishings and equipment, improved their homes, spent more for medical care. However, not all families have shared the general prosperity and many have felt the pinch of the high cost of living. With net incomes expected to be fairly high in 1949, higher income families probably will continue to improve their living.

Livestock producers are expected to have a good year in 1949. Prices are expected to stay high, their feed costs will be lower and production will be up a little. Crop prices probably will average somewhat lower this year.

COUNTY FARM STATISTICS

The Crop Reporting Service has completed 1947 county Farm Census reports. Farm statistics by counties for the past 31 years have been made possible by individual farmers reporting acres in crops, acres in pasture, crop production, livestock numbers, etc., to the tax lister each year. This information has been valuable to farmers in all counties in setting quotas, including those for cotton, peanuts, potatoes, wheat and tobacco. Under the present law no county farm statistics will be available for the years 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951 unless the present law is amended by the next legislature.

Industrial production is near the record peacetime high reached early this year, following a moderate decline caused by vacations.

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NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES. ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1947 AND INDICATED 1948

CROPS	ACREAGE			YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	AVERAGE 1937-46	HARVESTED 1947	INDICATED 1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	INDICATED 1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	REVISED 1947	INDICATED 1948
-THOUSANDS-									
NORTH CAROLINA									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	2,334	2,138	2,309	21.8	30.5	33.0	50.787	65,209	76,197
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	460	497	432	14.3	17.0	16.0	6,557	8,449	6,912
OATS.....BU.	288	394	260	25.9	29.5	30.0	7,593	11,523	7,800
BARLEY.....BU.	28	35	27	23.0	28.0	23.5	665	980	634
RYE.....BU.	43	24	25	10.1	14.0	12.0	422	336	300
TOBACCO, ALL.....LBS.	552.3	792.6	607	999.0	1,145.0	1,219	654,807	907,181	739,790
TYPE 11.....LBS.	251.9	302.0	233	928.0	1,050.0	1,180	235,771	320,120	274,940
TYPE 12.....LBS.	318.0	387.0	294	1,039.0	1,205.0	1,225	331,146	466,335	360,150
TYPE 13.....LBS.	73.5	94.0	70	1,044.0	1,125.0	1,250	77,160	105,750	88,200
ALL FLUE-CURED.....LBS.	543.5	783	597	1,002.0	1,139.0	1,212	644,275	892,205	723,290
TYPE 31.....LBS.	8.8	9.6	10	1,181.0	1,560.0	1,650	10,731	14,976	16,500
COTTON, LINT.....LBS.	802	647	721	355.0	335.0	457.0	582 1/	452 1/	690 1/
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	85	72	74	107.0	128.0	136	9,145	9,216 2/	10,064 2/
SWEET POTATOES.....BU.	75	64	50	104.0	115.0	113	7,823	7,350	6,780
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....BU.	203	261	277	11.5	15.0	13.0	2,333	3,915	3,601
PEANUTS, PICKED-THRESHED.....LBS.	268	301	307	1,153.0	1,030.0	1,175	306,250	310,030	360,725
HAY, ALL.....TONS	1,199	1,225	1,226	.98	.99	1.00	1,176	1,207	1,225
ALFALFA.....TONS	9	19	28	2.00	2.35	2.30	19	45	64
LESPEDEZA.....TONS	407	530	477	1.09	1.05	1.10	445	555	525
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS	72	84	92	1.10	1.15	1.15	80	97	106
PASTURE.....	-	-	-	70 3/	83 3/	78 3/	-	-	-
PEACHES, ALL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,131	2,905	1,646
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,065	768	976
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	302	298	209
GRAPES.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	5.6	5.6
PECANS.....LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,576	2,040	2,752
UNITED STATES									
CORN, ALL.....BU.	89,616	83,981	85,497	31.4	28.6	42.7	2,813,529	2,400,952	3,649,510
WHEAT, ALL.....BU.	58,832	74,186	71,502	16.1	18.4	18.0	942,623	1,364,919	1,283,770
OATS.....BU.	38,053	38,648	40,970	32.3	31.5	36.4	1,231,814	1,215,970	1,492,957
BARLEY.....BU.	12,515	10,947	12,177	23.7	25.5	26.1	298,811	279,182	317,240
RYE.....BU.	3,055	2,022	2,187	12.1	12.8	12.2	37,398	25,977	26,664
TOBACCO, ALL.....LBS.	1,544.0	1,845.0	1,535.0	1,008.0	1,142.0	1,219	1,664,265	2,107,763	1,871,844
TOBACCO, FLUE-CURED.....LBS.	954.7	1,161.2	888.5	985.0	1,135.0	-	944,809	1,317,466	-
COTTON, LINT.....LBS.	23,274	21,269	23,323	254.2	267.3	312.1	12,014	11,857 1/	15,166 1/
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....BU.	2,825	2,112	2,109	139.3	182.0	204.5	392,143	384,407 2/	431,401
SWEET POTATOES.....BU.	728	611	541	89.2	93.5	96.8	64,866	57,178	52,409
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....BU.	7,162	11,125	9,900	18.8	16.3	21.3	134,542	181,362	210,475
PEANUTS, PICKED-THRESHED.....LBS.	2,531	3,389	3,340	708.0	646.0	685	1,750,718	2,187,985	2,288,075
HAY, ALL.....TONS	73,018	75,291	73,624	1.34	1.36	1.35	97,563	102,500	99,094
ALFALFA.....TONS	14,600	14,908	14,957	2.16	2.25	2.25	31,540	33,475	33,765
LESPEDEZA.....TONS	5,481	6,545	6,148	1.06	1.03	1.13	5,807	6,768	6,933
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....TONS	21,062	23,402	22,356	1.35	1.39	1.32	28,617	32,559	29,503
PASTURE.....	-	-	-	73 3/	73 3/	70 3/	-	-	-
PEACHES.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,725	82,603	57,467
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,058	113,041	90,288
PEARS.....BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,222	35,312	26,190
GRAPES.....TONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,701	3,072	2,935
PECANS.....LBS.	-	-	-	-	-	-	109,475	118,639	152,722

- 1/ Reported in 500 lb. gross weight bales.
2/ Includes Government Purchases from unharvested acres.
3/ Condition - percent of normal on November 1.